



Bob Ferguson

## ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

1125 Washington Street SE • PO Box 40100 • Olympia, WA 98504-0100

June 5, 2018

### Re: Sexual Assault Kit Inventory

Greetings:

I am requesting your assistance in addressing unsolved sexual assaults in our state. As you know, sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes, and forensic evidence is often necessary to convict a serial sexual offender. The Homicide Investigation Tracking System (HITS) Division of my office recently sought and received a \$3 million Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The purpose of this grant is to conduct an inventory of all unsubmitted and partially submitted sexual assault kits across the state, then test those kits and track the results. The results will be provided to local law enforcement agencies to assist them in the identification and apprehension of serial sexual offenders.

Before we can use grant funds to begin testing, the BJA requires us to conduct a statewide inventory of unsubmitted and partially submitted sexual assault kits. While the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) conducted a survey to determine the number of sexual assault kits in the possession of law enforcement agencies in 2014-2015, the BJA grant requires us to conduct a unique inventory, collecting more detailed information than that collected in the WASPC survey.

**Specifically, we need to collect the following information for all sexual assault kits in your agency's possession that were collected before April 1, 2017:**

1. Agency Name
2. Case Number
3. Evidence Item Number
4. Victim Age
5. Offense Date
6. Date SAK was Collected
7. Primary Offense
8. Secondary Offense
9. SAK Previously Submitted to Lab: Y/N
10. Date Previously Submitted to Lab
11. Lab Case #

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Our work on the inventory will be spearheaded by two members of my team – SAKI Investigators Lindsey Wade and Marty Hill. Both are recently retired major crimes detectives from Tacoma and Spokane, respectively. Their contact information is as follows:

- For Western Washington agencies:  
Lindsey Wade: LindseyW@ATG.WA.GOV
- For Eastern Washington agencies:  
Marty Hill: MarvinH@ATG.WA.GOV

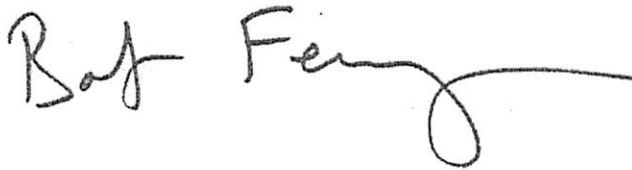
Given the importance and urgency of the task, as well as the fact that we cannot begin any testing under the terms of the grant until we complete the statewide inventory, **we are requesting your assistance in completing the inventory of your agency's kits by August 1, 2018.** *Completed July 2018*

Enclosed are three documents designed to assist in this process: 1) the SAKI Inventory Instructions; 2) the SAKI Inventory Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and 3) the Inventory Spreadsheet. In addition, the SAKI Investigators are available to assist your agency in conducting the inventory if needed.

Other states and jurisdictions participating in this process discovered many serial sexual offenders previously unknown to law enforcement. Our goal in obtaining the SAKI grant is to assist law enforcement agencies in Washington in identifying sex offenders and bringing closure to, and justice for, victims of sexual assault. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important work.

If you have questions regarding the grant, please contact our SAKI team at wasaki@atg.wa.gov, or our site coordinator, Assistant Attorney General Kate Hemann, at (206) 389-3076.

Sincerely,



BOB FERGUSON  
Attorney General

RWF/jlg

Enclosures